

# National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture  
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## FY 2003 Programs in South Dakota

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

| USDA / DOI                                       | Actual 2002   | **Estimated 2003 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Preparedness</b>                              | 6,991         | 5,887            |
| <b>Operations</b>                                |               |                  |
| <b>Suppression*</b>                              |               |                  |
| Hazardous Fuel                                   | 4,377         | 6,446            |
| Rehabilitation                                   | 2,571         | 19               |
| Fire Facilities                                  | 0             |                  |
| Research and Development                         | 0             |                  |
| Joint Fire Sciences                              | 0             |                  |
| Forest Health Management                         | 0             | 118              |
| State Fire Assistance                            | 930           | 855              |
| Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance | 370           | 352              |
| Economic Action Program                          | 0             | 17               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>15,279</b> | <b>13,694</b>    |

\* Suppression costs for Dakota totaled \$22.3 million in 2002.

\*\* Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

## Program Highlights

- Fire protection activities will be increased by the promotion of geographic-based fire protection systems through the integration of responsible fire entities across jurisdictions in the Black Hills area by 2002.
- The Black Hills National Forest will conduct restoration work on the Jasper (2000), Elk Mountain Complex (2001), and West Hell Canyon (2001) fires. Work may include hand-line restoration, road restoration or maintenance, reforestation, noxious weed inventory and treatment, and terrestrial habitat restoration.

## Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
  - ≠ The USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
  - ≠ Department of the Interior will have a total of 97 firefighting personnel, 42 engines, 4 water/foam tenders, and 1 dozer.

## Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation consists of 1) immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and 2) long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection from invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

## Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 22,800 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 5,500 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$6.4 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

## Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$229,000  
## 64 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$885,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$183,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$17,000

## Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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